

Pat Montanio - NOAA Federal

From: Pat Montanio - NOAA Federal
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 11:56 AM
To: tomiak.robert@epa.gov; Donna Wieting
Cc: Kara Meckley; Cathy Tortorici
Subject: Re: Limetree Bay Refinery

Thank you for reaching out. I understand there is a lot of interest in the Limetree Bay Refinery project and that the USACE and the applicant have been working closely with the NMFS Southeast Regional Office on the ESA and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultations. My office engages in national coordination of the EFH program and the ESA coordination is handled through our NMFS Office of Protected Resources (also here in Silver Spring). Given your question is more on the ESA side, I'm looping in Donna Wieting, Director Protected Resources in headquarters.

I agree that proactively establishing interagency connections are very helpful and I would be happy to meet with you or have a call over the next few weeks, Donna's office may be best able to help on your immediate question related to the ESA Consultation.

PatM

(And thanks for bringing back the fun memories of the Guam EIS!)

On Tue, Sep 11, 2018 at 8:27 AM Tomiak, Robert <tomiak.robert@epa.gov> wrote:

Pat/Kara,

Do you all have time for a quick call today? Looking for your take on where your regional office is in the process. More specifically, does the region have an estimated BO date or are they awaiting additional information yet such that the 135 day period hasn't started?

I understand that this project has been elevated to Chris Oliver.....and that may happen again. Will know and share more after a meeting on Thursday.

I can be available any time after 2pm today. My direct # is: (202) 564-7526

Thanks, Rob

From: Kara Meckley - NOAA Federal [mailto:kara.meckley@noaa.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2018 4:55 PM

To: Tomiak, Robert <tomiak.robert@epa.gov>

Cc: pat.montanio@noaa.gov

Subject: Re: Limetree Bay Refinery

Hello Rob, thank you for reaching out about this project. Pat is on leave today, but will be back tomorrow and I will touch base with her. I'll need to connect with our NMFS southeast regional office to better understand the status of any consultations on coral habitats. I appreciate the heads-up that this may become a FAST-41 project.

Talk with you soon,

Kara

On Wed, Sep 5, 2018 at 4:00 PM, Tomiak, Robert <tomiak.robert@epa.gov> wrote:

Pat,

I apologize for the out-of-the-blue email.....but I'm looking to establish some interagency coordination on this high profile project. I've been asked by our political team to lead the EPA's coordination of our several permitting actions and consent decree related to the Limetree Bay Refinery project in St Croix.

I've likewise reached out to USACE colleagues and plan to meet with them next week. However, my understanding is that NMFS is involved because the new refinery ownership is seeking to install a Single Point Mooring (SPM) which may create impacts to coral. I'm unclear on where in your process this piece is, and if there are coral issues related to the 404 wetlands permit that must still be resolved.

You are not likely to remember me, but I was with Department of Navy when you and Don Schregardus met to debate coral biological value assessment methodology related to the Guam EIS (what fun that was). After that, I spent 6 years at Department of Commerce managing energy and environmental programs within the Office of the Secretary. I'm now at my 2 year point at EPA with a portfolio of NEPA and permit coordination.

In any event, given the visibility of this project, and it may soon become a FAST-41 covered project, I wanted to touch base with you. Are you available for a short call, either on Friday, or one day next week?

Thanks, Rob

Rob Tomiak

Director, Office of Federal Activities

Office of Policy

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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Kara Meckley

Chief, Habitat Protection Division

NOAA Fisheries, Office of Habitat Conservation

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